

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ambassador Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary LaHood and Ambassador Kirk:

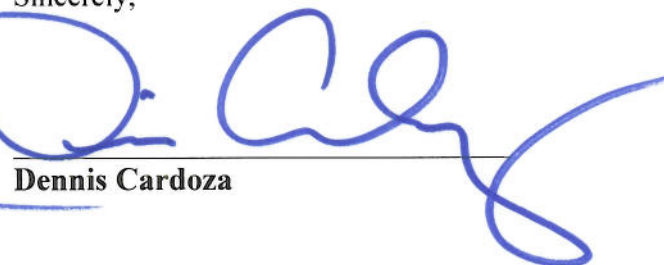
We are writing to express our concern about the lack of action and transparency by the United States Trade Representative and the Department of Transportation to address tariffs imposed by Mexico on U.S. agricultural and manufacturing products in response to the removal of the cross-border trucking pilot program. These tariffs have had a devastating impact on our local industries and area economies. Therefore, given the importance of this matter to our constituents, we urge you to immediately implement a plan of action to rectify this situation.

As you know, Congress terminated funding for the cross-border trucking pilot program with Mexico in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The resulting retaliation from Mexico, including import duties on over 90 products, has left farmers and manufacturers scrambling. These goods have faced Mexican import tariffs between 10 and 45 percent for almost a year.

Over the past 11 months, Administration officials have repeatedly expressed confidence that a resolution to the current dispute could be found that would fulfill our obligations to Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement. President Obama expressed his commitment to resolving the issue to President Calderon during their meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico in August, 2009. However, to date, the Administration has not shared any of the principles or the parameters of a proposed plan. Finally, in the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Bill, Congress chose not to continue the funding limitation for the pilot program.

The current situation is unsustainable and untenable. Our constituents need help immediately and we implore you to work quickly to implement a solution that ensures safety and normalizes trade between the U.S. and Mexico. Please communicate your plans for a solution so that we are better able to understand the Administration's strategy to address this matter and resolve this situation permanently. Our constituents need to move forward.

Sincerely,

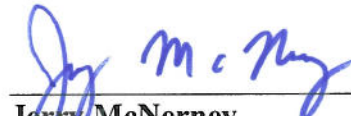


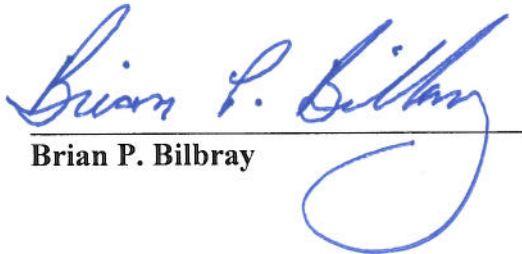
Dennis Cardoza



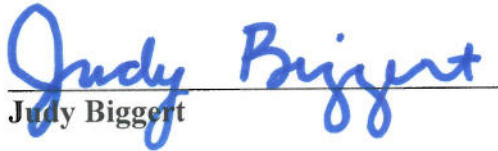
Rick Larsen

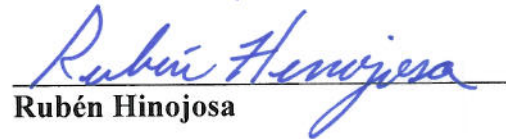

Mike Thompson


Jerry McNerney

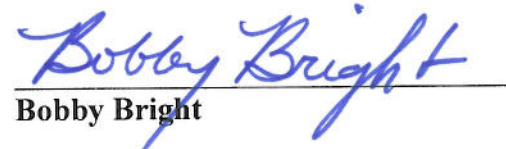

Brian P. Bilbray

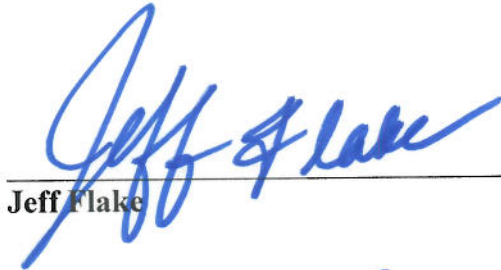

Henry Cuellar

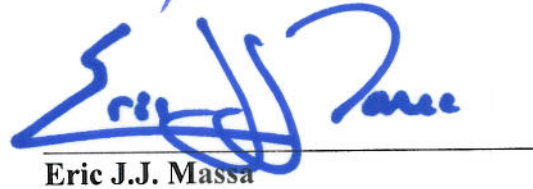

Judy Biggert

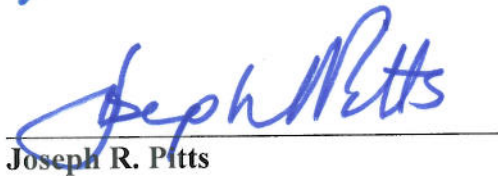

Rubén Hinojosa


Robert E. Latta

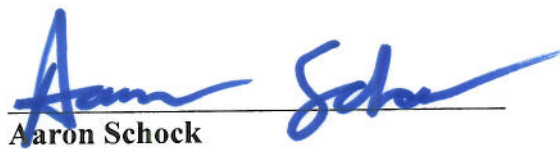

Bobby Bright


Jeff Flake


Eric J.J. Massa

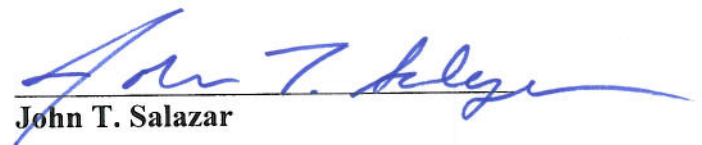

Joseph R. Pitts

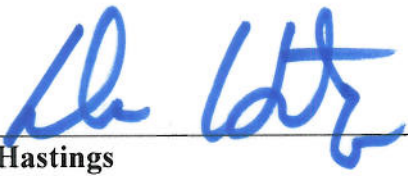

Daniel E. Lungren


Aaron Schock

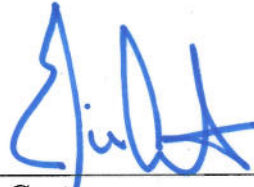

Melissa L. Bean


Earl Pomeroy


John T. Salazar



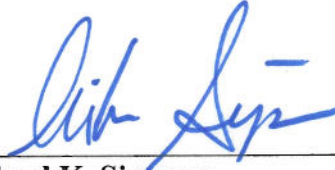
Doc Hastings



Jim Costa



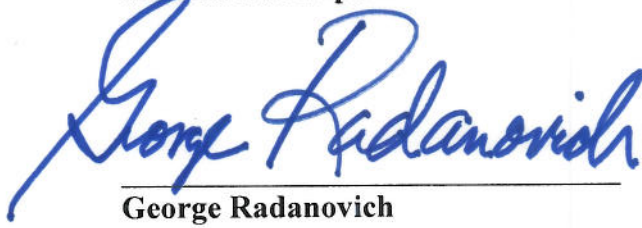
Greg Walden



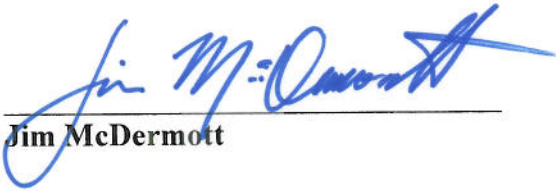
Michael K. Simpson



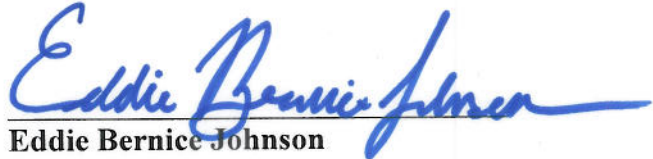
K. Michael Conaway



George Radanovich



Jim McDermott



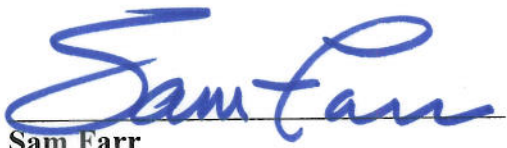
Eddie Bernice Johnson



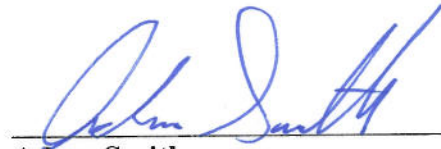
Devin Nunes



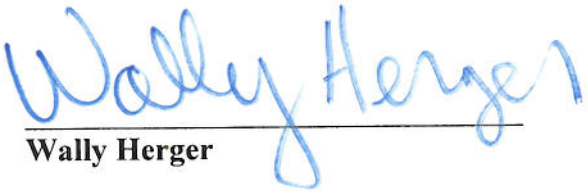
David G. Reichert




Sam Farr



Adam Smith



Wally Herger



Randy Neugebauer



Walt Minnick

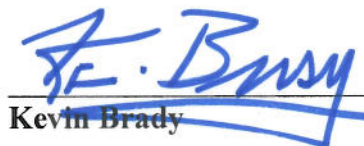



Ron Kind


Jeb Hensarling


Peter Hoekstra


Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

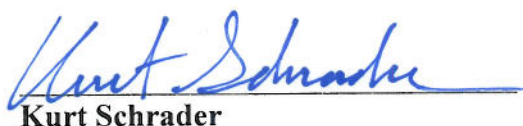

Kevin Brady

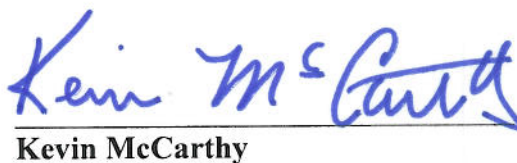

Christopher John Lee

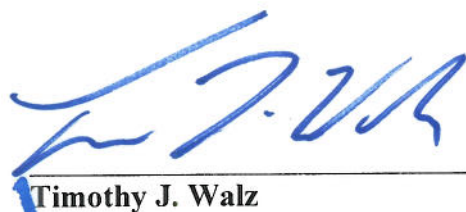

William L. Owens

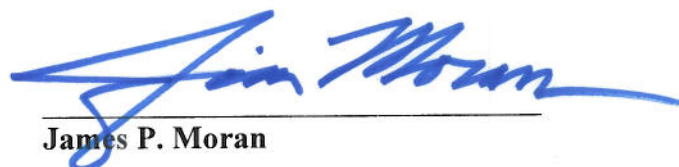

Steven C. LaTourette

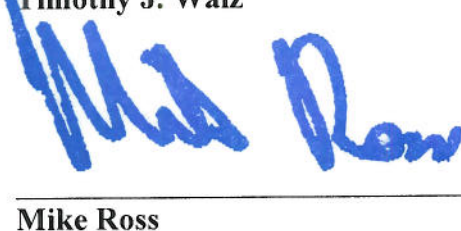

Larry Kissell

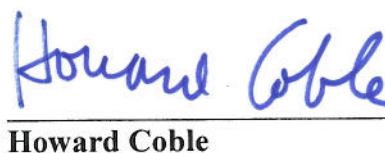

Kurt Schrader


Kevin McCarthy


Timothy J. Walz


James P. Moran


Mike Ross

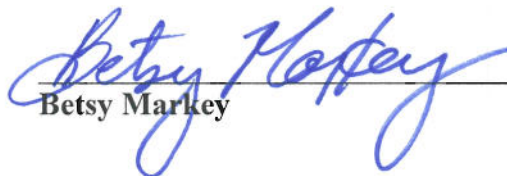

Howard Coble


Jerry Moran


Mary Bono Mack



Gabrielle Giffords



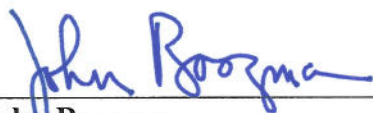
Betsy Markey



Edward R. Royce



Thomas E. Petri



John Boozman



Ralph M. Hall

Cc:

Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Aviation, Department of Transportation

Miriam Sapiro, Deputy Ambassador for Europe, Middle East and the Americas